

# **Pesticide Incident Reporting and Tracking Review Panel**

## **PIRT MEETING SUMMARY**

**FEBRUARY 16, 2006**

**WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
TOWN CENTER ONE, 101 ISRAEL ROAD SE, ROOM 232  
TUMWATER, WASHINGTON**

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### **PANEL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Dorothy Tibbetts, Acting Chair	Department of Health	(360) 236-3361
Lucy Harter, Coordinator	Department of Health	(360) 236-3356
Allan Felsot	Washington State University	(509) 372-7365
Steven Gilbert	Practicing Toxicologist	(206) 527-0926
Matthew Keifer	University of Washington	(206) 616-1452
Alice Larson	General Public	(206) 463-9000
Maria Victoria Peeler	Department of Ecology	(360) 407-6704
Karen Ripley	Department of Natural Resources	(360) 902-1691
William Robertson	Washington Poison Center	(206) 517-2356
Gabrielle Toutonghi	Department of Labor and Industries	(360) 902-5478
Ann Wick	Department of Agriculture	(360) 902-2051

### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Maryanne Guichard, Chair	Department of Health	(360) 236-3391
Vacant	Department of Fish & Wildlife	

### **OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Pat Boss	Washington State Horticulture Assn.	(509) 771-1844
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### ***PIRT Review Panel Activities***

Dorothy Tibbetts called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. The meeting agenda was approved as revised. The November 17, 2005 meeting summary was approved as distributed.

#### ***Reappointment of Public Positions***

Because of their valuable contributions to the PIRT Panel, the Panel recommended that the Governor's Boards and Commission Office reappoint Alice Larson, General Public, and Steven Gilbert, Practicing Toxicologist, for two-year terms on the PIRT Panel.

#### ***PIRT Annual Reports***

The 2005 Annual PIRT Report is under review by DOH management.

#### ***PIRT Meeting Times and Locations***

The length of PIRT Panel meetings will increase to three hours as of the March 16, 2006 meeting. Meetings will begin at 9:30 and end at 12:30. In 2007, four PIRT meetings are scheduled for

Seattle, five in Olympia and one in Yakima (June). The 2006 schedule was revised to include a June 15 PIRT Panel meeting in Yakima. The meeting locations for 2006 are listed on page 4.

### ***Panel Decision Making Process***

The Panel briefly discussed the decision making process for Panel business and determined that more time is needed to address the issue. It will be discussed in more detail at the April 20, 2006 meeting.

### ***Letter of support***

PIRT Panel members asked Maryanne Guichard, as PIRT Panel Chair, to sent Matt Keifer a letter in support of his research efforts to identify and characterize causes of cholinesterase depression among pesticide handlers in Washington State. He will submit the letter with his PNASH grant proposal.

### ***Proposed Revision of PIRT RCW***

Because of the full agenda, further discussion of RCW 70.104.090 was postponed to April PIRT meeting. Maria Peeler suggested that Net Meeting would be a useful on-line tool in discussing and drafting the proposed RCW changes.

### ***Cholinesterase Monitoring (ChE)***

The Panel discussed what ChE monitoring data will continue to be available in 2007. Currently, the DOH Public Health Laboratory provides test results for ChE specimens in the weekly Cholinesterase Monitoring Data System (CMDs) report. This will be required from the laboratory contracted to conduct ChE testing in 2007.

In 2007, when the ChE Rule will be supported through L&I WISHA' compliance and consultation services, employers will be required to do workplace evaluations but this information will not be systematically collected or retained. The work site inspection data currently collected by the L&I Focus Study will also not be available (e.g. equipment used and any violations that may have contributed to increased exposure). L&I will not conduct follow-up investigations on ChE depressions. PIRT is composing a letter to L&I in support of continued data collection.

### ***Pesticide-related Bills***

The two pesticide-related bills of interest to PIRT, House Bill 2611, revising provisions relating to pesticide application notification of pesticide-sensitive individuals, and Senate Bill 6607, requiring notification of certain pesticide applications, have been dropped by the 2006 Legislature for now.

The Panel requested a report on the status of the proposed legislation to create a Washington Academy of Sciences at the March 16, 2006 PIRT meeting.

### ***Science Corner***

Allan Felsot discussed the *EPA Reregistration Eligibility Decision for 2,4-D* and the California proposal to list 2,4-D as a reproductive (developmental) toxicant under the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65). If 2,4-D is listed under Proposition 65, it would make it harder for California municipalities and school districts to use the pesticide. The chemical is also commonly used in granular products for home gardens. Allan reviewed the criteria for the EPA 2,4-D reregistration decision. EPA had found "reasonable certainty of no harm".

### ***2005 Action Recommendations and 2006 Action Recommendations***

The Panel reviewed the 2005 Action Recommendations and agreed to carry the ten current actions forward, with some revisions, for 2006. An additional Action Recommendation was adopted on identifying the available data on residential and agricultural pesticide use. PIRT will examine and report on the costs and benefits of gathering this data.

### ***Agency Updates***

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#### ***Agriculture***

The Pesticide Management Division has hired a bilingual trainer, Jaime Ramon, to work with the Farmworker Safety Program. The first hands-on training was in Mattawa on February 18, 2006. Compliance and Program staff received the year-end review of their programs from EPA and are writing up the work schedule and projects for FY 07 EPA grant funding. The amount of EPA funding projected for FY07 decreased from FY06. This continues a steady pattern of decreasing federal funds and the Pesticide Management Program will consider introducing legislation in the next session to increase licensing and registration fees.

The PIRT Panel is invited to attend Orchard Sprayer Critique Day on March 29, 2006. The goal for the day is to evaluate coverage (efficacy) and drift potential with differing application equipment and settings.

#### ***Ecology***

The Water Quality Program has drafted a joint federal NPDES and state waste discharge general permit for the new Aquatic Plant and Algae Management Permit. As with all general permits, the Aquatic Plant and Algae Management Permit will be issued under joint state and federal authority. Ecology is responding to the numerous comments received on the draft permit.

#### ***Health***

The DOH Pesticide Program is exploring options for changing the way pesticide-related cases are selected for investigation. Dorothy Tibbetts will present the current ideas at a PIRT meeting for Panel input.

The DOH Pesticide Program is making progress in implementing its outreach plan and is taking action on the findings from the DOH investigation into under-reporting of pesticide-related illnesses. Dorothy will present an update on the prevention activities at a PIRT meeting.

#### ***Labor and Industries***

The Governor's Industrial Safety and Health Advisory Board's second annual Agriculture Safety Day will be held March 1, 2006 at the Yakima Convention Center. Some of the topics for the day include Tractor, Machine and ATV Safety, Heat Stress, and Injuries in Orchards. More information on the Safety Day is at: [www.lni.wa.gov/WISHA/gov-conf/PDFs/2006AgSafetyDay.pdf](http://www.lni.wa.gov/WISHA/gov-conf/PDFs/2006AgSafetyDay.pdf).

The L&I report to the Legislature on cholinesterase monitoring in 2005 has been published and is available at: [www.lni.wa.gov/Safety/Topics/AtoZ/Cholinesterase/files/2005-cherpleg.pdf](http://www.lni.wa.gov/Safety/Topics/AtoZ/Cholinesterase/files/2005-cherpleg.pdf).

Gabrielle Toutonghi reported that L&I reorganized the divisions where chemically-related illness worker's compensation claims and WISHA inspection services are located. She suggested that it may be useful to have a WISHA compliance inspector or supervisor and the nurse in charge of

chemically-related (including pesticides) illness claims explain to the PIRT Panel how pesticide-related issues are a part of their programs.

### ***Washington Poison Center***

Washington Poison Center is busier than ever while experiencing cuts in federal funds.

WPC is participating in a peer discussion concerning the JAMA paper *Acute Illnesses Associated with Pesticide Exposure at Schools*. Of the national poison center data, 83% involved phone calls with no reported medical examinations. Three cases reported as seriously ill were based on the telephone interviews. WPC is also looking at how ill these three cases were.

### ***Public Comments***

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Pat Boss with the Washington State Horticulture Association suggested that PIRT meet more often in eastern Washington to facilitate attendance by east- side growers. He also commented on the confusion resulting from WSDA and L&I dual responsibilities in enforcing the Worker Protection Standard. He believes that it would be useful for the two agencies to have a joint presentation for growers explaining the agencies' roles and regulations.

### ***Future Meetings***

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Karl Arne, Region 10 EPA, will talk on EPA's Strategic Agriculture Initiative at the March 16, 2006 PIRT meeting.

WSDA is exploring the possibility of conducting a pilot study on airblast application notifications to determine whether a rule is feasible. If the pilot study is approved by WSDA, Ann Wick will bring the project to the PIRT for Panel input. It was recommended that Allan Felsot and/or Rich Fenske be asked to talk about the drift component of the pilot study when it is presented.

The Panel agreed to hold the June 15, 2006 PIRT meeting in Yakima. Two items proposed for discussion at the Yakima meeting are: 1. Clarification of the roles of WSDA and L&I in the administration of the Worker Protection Standard (WPS). The agencies could also describe how they coordinate enforcement and consultations and share data through their Memorandum of Understanding. 2. Discussion of Cholinesterase Monitoring in 2005.

### ***Time of Future Meetings***

Future PIRT meetings will be three hours long. The first three-hour meeting will be March 16, 2006 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

### ***Location of Future Meetings***

PIRT meets on the third Thursday of each month. All Seattle meetings will be held at the State Public Health Lab, 1601 NE 150<sup>th</sup> Street, Room S4. Olympia area meetings will be at the Department of Health, 101 Israel Road SE, Town Center East, Building 1, Room 232, Tumwater.

March 16, 2006 – Department of Health

April 20, 2006 – Public Health Lab  
May 18, 2006 – Department of Health  
June 15, 2006 – Yakima  
July 20, 2006 – Public Health Lab  
August – No meeting  
September 21, 2006 – Department of Health  
October 19, 2006 – Public Health Lab  
November 16, 2006 – Department of Health  
December – No meeting

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.